

Please amend the present application as follows:

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [035] of the pending application with the following replacement paragraph:

[035] Referring now to FIGS. 3-6, and particularly to FIG. 6, when the elastic member is engaged around the straps 12, 14 and closed, the middle portion of the elastic member is positioned adjacent to the wearer's back and engages the inner surface of the straps 12, 14 while the left- and right-end portions, 26 and 28, of the elastic member 22 are positioned along and, at least partially engage the outer surface of the straps. As shown in FIGS. 1, 2, 6, and 7, the straps are shoulder straps on a garment which extend to the rear of the garment. Accordingly, the portions of the elastic member 22 having the increased transverse width are positioned adjacent to, and frictionally engage, the outer edges of the straps. The engagement of the aforementioned wider portions of the member 22 with the outer edges of the straps 12, 14 functions to stabilize the straps in order to reduce the occurrence of strap twisting. As further shown in FIG. 6, each of the left- and right-end portions 26 and 28 of the elastic member 22 project upwardly and perpendicularly away from the middle portion of the elastic member, and wherein, upon securing the tensioning device about the rear shoulder straps, the rear shoulder straps are drawn inwardly. As best shown in FIG. 7, upon application of the tensioning device 20 to a conventional brassiere, the increased tension to the straps acts to impart an upward lift to the brassiere cups, providing the desired pushing up of the breasts desired by women.